

ROUTING

Top Secret 219

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Friday 17 November 1978 CG NIDC 78/268



NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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State Dept. review completed

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25X1 National Intelligence Daily Cable for Friday, 17 Novem-
25X1 ber 1978. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The NID cable is
for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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[REDACTED]

IRAN: Situation Report

25X1 [] //Tehran is generally quiet, but scattered incidents continue in several other Iranian cities. Harassment of US nationals and other foreigners has been prevalent--and is particularly ugly--in oil centers in southwestern Iran, where strikers are intimidating expatriate workers who remain on the job. US nationals may be caught up in antiforeign incidents during the emotional Muslim month of mourning that begins on 2 December.//

25X1 [] //The government took the precautionary measure of canceling the armed forces day parade scheduled for today; it was concerned that the parade would give crowds an excuse to gather and provide considerable opportunity for antiregime displays.//

25X1 [] Despite continued transportation bottlenecks and the customs employees' strike, the food supply disruptions that occurred last week have largely disappeared. Hoarding apparently has ceased, government stocks are in good shape, and the short-term food outlook is good.

25X1 [] For the longer term, however, Iran's heavy dependence on imported foodstuffs--primarily grains, sugar, vegetable oils, and red meat--and animal feeds will affect the Iranian consumer. If adequate animal feeds are not delivered to farms, domestic production of milk, meat, and poultry will be seriously affected. The cost of foods that are not price-controlled have already risen sharply.

25X1 [] The Central Bank enacted formal exchange controls on Wednesday in an effort to stem the outflow of foreign currency. Informal controls placed on the export of foreign exchange on 5 November apparently failed to stem the flight of capital, and demand for foreign exchange for noncommercial uses has remained higher than banks can cope with. []

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USSR-US: Relations

25X1 [] *The Soviets have decided to press their positions vigorously on SALT and on other major issues in bilateral relations during the visit to Moscow of the US Senate delegation led by Senator Ribicoff. The USSR is apparently responding in kind to the criticism that a Supreme Soviet delegation led by candidate Politburo member Ponomarev received during a visit to the US last January.*

25X1 [] On Wednesday, US press services--but not the Soviet service TASS--reported that Ponomarev gave a speech accusing the US both of causing a "grave deterioration" in relations last spring and summer and of seeking military superiority. He tried, however, to put the best light on Soviet policy in an effort to sway senatorial votes on SALT.

25X1 [] Ponomarev showed a keen awareness of the controversial nature of SALT within the US Congress and attempted to leave the impression that the US has not fully reciprocated Soviet flexibility. He asserted that the USSR has already made some "difficult" concessions and that, although the US has made "some positive moves," it has not given "the due answer to our constructive proposals." Ponomarev sought to increase pressure on the US further by implying that the US was making unwarranted demands and by suggesting that Moscow may feel it has reached the limit of its concessions.

25X1 [] On other issues, Ponomarev apparently hoped to sway senatorial opinion on the Jackson-Vanik and Stevenson amendments by stressing the volume of trade the US has lost because of "discriminatory legislation."

25X1 [] He then launched what is probably the most vigorous high-level attack on US Middle East policy since the conclusion of the Camp David meetings, accusing the US of violating the October 1977 Joint Statement and of having "torpedoed the Geneva conference." He followed with a strong defense of Soviet policy in

Africa, conveying Soviet determination to pursue targets of opportunity there and implicitly rejecting any linkage between Africa and SALT.

25X1 [] Ponomarev closed with some strong warnings about China. He asserted that providing arms and technology to China would pose a danger to world peace. His charge that the US is encouraging such sales was the most explicit allegation in public to date by an authoritative Soviet official.

25X1 [] Press accounts indicate that Premier Kosygin, in his meeting with the delegation yesterday, made a similar spirited defense of Soviet policies, arguing a need for US accommodation to legitimate Soviet interests. 25X1 []

EAST - WEST GERMANY: Agreement

25X1 [] *The economic agreements signed yesterday by East and West Germany constitute the most comprehensive accords reached between the two states since they normalized relations in 1972. Bonn has achieved significant transit improvements between West Berlin and the Federal Republic, representing a stabilizing factor in inter-German relations. In return, East Germany receives nearly \$1 billion in badly needed hard currency.*

25X1 [] The agreement involved intense negotiations that began after Soviet President Brezhnev's visit to Bonn in May. The major projects covered by the agreement include the construction of an autobahn from Hamburg to West Berlin, reopening of the Teltow Canal in West Berlin, repair of certain transit waterways between West Germany and West Berlin, and the establishment of road transit fees totaling 525 million marks annually for the next 10 years. Lesser projects are scheduled for discussion in 1980.

25X1 [] East German Deputy Foreign Minister Kurt Nier has termed the agreement a "good balancing of mutual interests." The West German Government has been interested in negotiating these projects for several years, both for their practical benefit and for their significance as a sign of improving bilateral relations.

25X1 [] West German Chancellor Schmidt will have some difficulty selling the package to the public. All improvements in inter-German understanding are politically attractive in West Germany, but this package will be criticized as too expensive, as committing Bonn to early payments, and as neglecting "human improvements" such as relaxation of travel restrictions and family reunifications. 25X1 []

POLAND: Dissident Activities

25X1 [] *The autumn session of the Polish dissidents' "flying university" is apparently under way in Warsaw. The "university," which was launched last fall, presents a series of lectures on a wide range of politically sensitive topics using a different location for each meeting.*

25X1 [] The first lecture was given on Monday in a Catholic church by a priest involved with the dissident movement. Dissidents have used Church facilities before and indicated earlier this year that they would try to hold some sessions in church buildings. Last spring, the Polish Episcopate implicitly supported the flying universities, and it has tolerated the participation of activist priests. Stefan Cardinal Wyzynski, however, does not want to tie the Church too closely to any specific group.

25X1 [] The police, in keeping with the regime's past policy of respecting the sanctity of churches, did not break up the meeting. They did, however, prevent the holding of two subsequent sessions. Yesterday, the police took into custody the leading Polish dissident, Jacek Kuron, before he could deliver his lecture. The police have often detained Kuron and probably will not hold him longer than the 48 hours that the law allows before charges have to be filed. 25X1 []

RHODESIA: Election Postponement

25X1 [] *The transitional government in Rhodesia announced yesterday that elections for a majority government would be postponed until 20 April. Prime Minister*

Smith and his three black partners in the government's Executive Council apparently reached the decision after a long and acrimonious meeting.

25X1 [] Smith and other white leaders had been asserting for some time that the election could not be held next month as originally scheduled because there was not enough time to complete preparations. Bishop Muzorewa, who is concerned about a loss of black support, had been particularly vociferous in arguing against a delay in the vote.

25X1 [] Although Muzorewa and the other black leaders probably will remain in the government because they have few alternatives, the postponement could add to existing strains in relations between blacks and whites in the transitional government. The election delay is not likely to alleviate the concerns of whites, who have been emigrating from Rhodesia in large numbers because of the lack of progress toward a settlement.

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BRIEFS

Tanzania-Uganda

25X1 [] //Tanzanian patrols confirmed on Wednesday that Ugandan forces had withdrawn from Tanzanian territory. Tanzanian President Nyerere has thus far let stand his orders for an attack into Uganda to destroy the Ugandan armed forces but, according to the US Ambassador in Dar es Salaam, he probably has not decided whether to cross the border.//

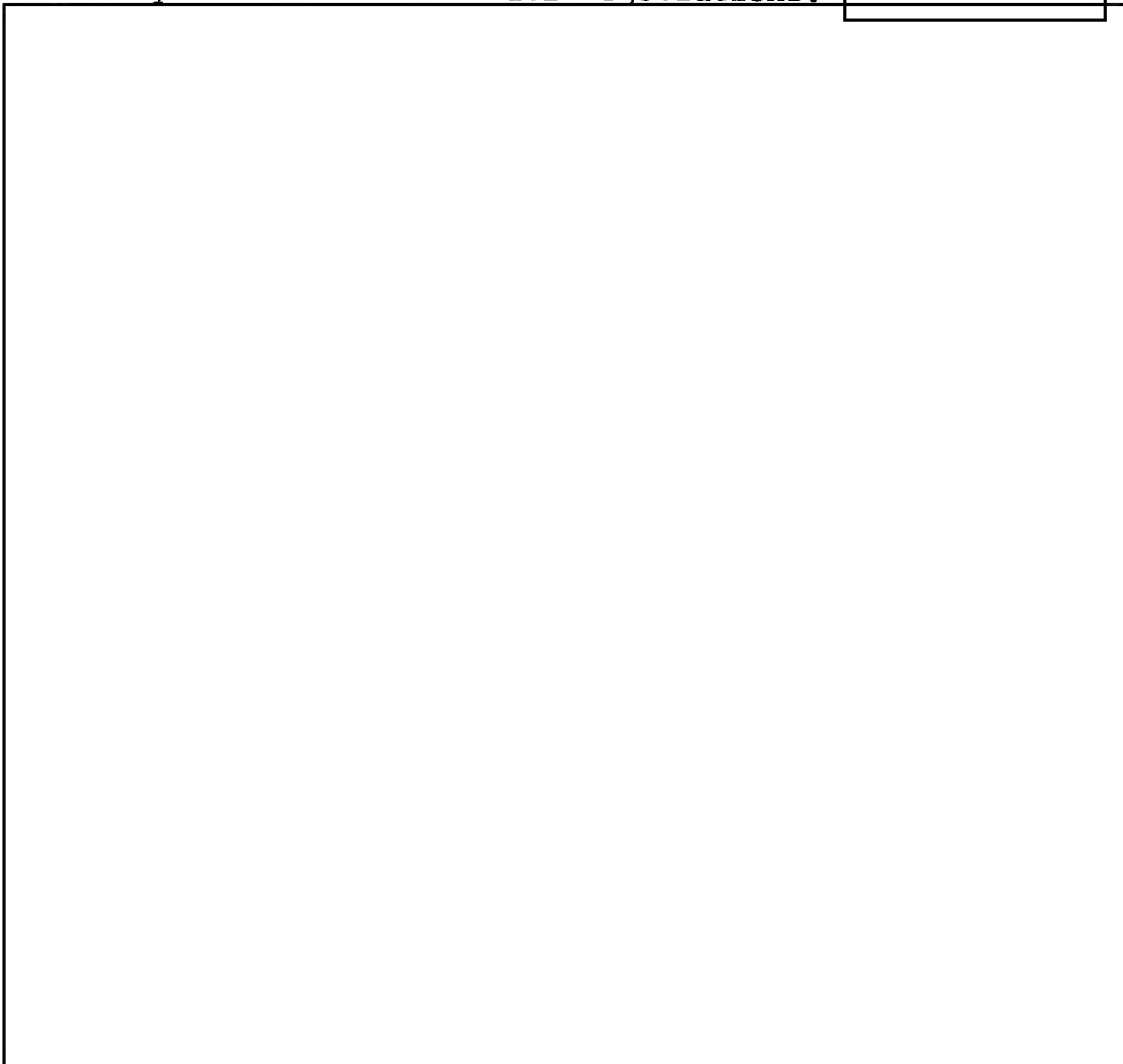
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[redacted] Despite the Ugandan withdrawal, Tanzania alleged yesterday that heavy fighting was still taking place. This may be intended to justify an attack against Uganda if Nyerere decides to proceed. Ugandan President Amin has denied the Tanzanian assertion and has offered to fly to Dar es Salaam for negotiations. [redacted]

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